

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on August 20, 2008 setting a three month shortened statutory period for response that expired on November 20, 2008. Applicant requests a one month extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a). A suitable fee authorization for the extension is set forth below. Claims 1-7, 24-28 and 44-47 are pending. Prompt reconsideration is requested.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to. Claim 1 has been amended as suggested by the examiner to correct a typographical error. This objection is believed to now be overcome

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 103

Claims 1-7, 24-28 and 44-47 stand rejected as unpatentable over Harvey et al. in view of Maehiro and now Lange et al. There is no suggestion in these references either alone or in combination that suggests the communication between users to be by exchange of selected words from a menu of predetermined words, and then free form communication as is claimed.

First, Harvey does not disclose or suggest an environment in which users communicate by an exchange of words selected from a menu of predetermined words. Further, the cited references do not suggest 1) providing a unique code generated by a multi-user communication environment to a first user in the multi-user environment 2) during an exchange of words from a menu of predetermined words as is claimed. Further, there is no suggestion in Harvey or Maehiro that such a unique code is 3) transmitted by the first user to the at least one other user via a mode outside of the multi-user communication environment, and then 4) initiating secure free form communication between the users upon the unique code being authenticated in the multi-user communication environment 5) after the unique code is submitted to the multi-user communication environment by the at least one other user. These limitations are simply not disclosed in these references.

Lange has been added to supposedly teach such a communication via menus of words between a first and at least one other user. Lange, however, does not teach communication between two users at all. Lange simply teaches a spelling check program that recognizes misspelled words and presents to a SINGLE user suggestions for replacement of the misspelled word in a text. It is respectfully submitted that none of these references teach communication between two users as is claimed. Thus the examiner has NOT set forth a prima facie case of obviousness as is required for the rejection to stand. The rejection should be withdrawn.

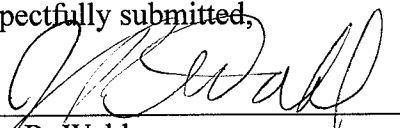
Claims 1-7, 24-28 and 44-48 remain pending in the application. This amendment is believed to be responsive to all points raised in the Office Action. However, should matters remain which the Examiner believes could be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney at (303) 685-7460.

Applicant requests a one month extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) to extend the period for response to December 20, 2008. The Director is authorized to charge the fee for such extension as well as any additional fee(s) or any underpayment of fee(s), or to credit any overpayments to **Deposit Account Number 50-2638**. Please ensure that Attorney Docket Number 054317-023301 is referred to when charging any payments or credits for this case.

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Respectfully submitted,



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